From: Stuart Gedal
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: Re: PLEASE VOTE NO ON ONE-SIDED BOYCOTT RESOLUTION
Date: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 9:05:00 PM

Hello, Denise.

I appreciate your responding so quickly and completely. Thanks for the very detailed and clear explanation of the "non-status" of the resolution at the moment.

I especially appreciate your logic and calm because two groups supporting the passage of a resolution with very sharp wording about the Middle East sent out webmails last night. Their webmails both state matter-of-factly that there IS a resolution, that 5 Councilors are committed to voting for it, and list in pretty bold headline who they are.

These came from the Mass HP Boycott organization and the Voice for Peace group. One of them mentions or shows that their distribution group is 1,000 people. They were given what appears to be misinformation.

As a long-time activist, I'm not used to large outside groups taking the lead on local issues. Certainly we called on experts—lawyers, architects, urban planners, etc.—to reinforce our positions, but we were not led from outside of Cambridge.

We were residents on a block who met with a neglectful landlord, or members of a neighborhood-wide group who met for years or months with Simplex or WR Grace. Or, on immigration issues, we were colleagues (staff of community agencies) like Centro Presente, CLC, COPA, Concilio, etc. who relied on the trust of others. We would have never risked our credibility by sending out alarmist news ahead of a Council vote.

Thank you again for stressing the procedure and the chance to air views and gather information. Thank you, too, for the suggestion that we need to confer with people in government (staff from our Rep or Senators) with experience in foreign affairs.

Best wishes,
Stuart

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 17, 2018, at 7:08 PM, Simmons, Denise <dsimmons@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

> Hello Stuart,
>
> Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of concern in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that this will only appear on the City Council's April 23 agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it. We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this

has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online this Thursday evening around 5:30 pm. I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of such a resolution.

There have been numerous op-eds, emails, and social media posts condemning the City Council for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, or even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet even have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to discuss this amongst ourselves unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting. At this point, I am not yet certain if such a resolution will be introduced or not.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: STUART GEDAL <waterbury59@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2018 10:59 PM
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: PLEASE VOTE NO ON ONE-SIDED BOYCOTT RESOLUTION

Hello, Denise --

I'm writing you about how I hope you will vote on what appears to be an upcoming Council resolution regarding the discussion about the use of

technology in relation to personal privacy and social justice.

My understanding is that a draft resolution is circulating, but that it has somehow been pushed in the direction of being a resolution aimed at one particular use or application of Hewlett-Packard (HP) technology.

I think that this push, which is in deference to an outside organization's efforts to take one side in the Middle East conflict, really derails our Cambridge discussion of how the City can move forward in those instances where companies like HP and others use technology for purposes that harm us or our freedoms.

HP, like other tech companies, is worldwide, but somehow the authors of the resolution have aimed it squarely at one what must be dozens of governments who use HP's technology. Because this country is Israel, and is deeply embroiled in complicated cross-cultural and military situations, the resolution is likely to polarize rather than unite social activists.

We need to move forward together to react to a number of instances where technologies developed in Cambridge or used by Cambridge government are being used here in the US and federal and state regulation can help guarantee our freedom and privacy. Israel should not be singled out from other nations, for example Russia, China, the Philippines, and many others who have flawed governments that misuse technology against their own people.

I hope that you will work to prevent this one-sided resolution, aimed at one small country, from being reported to the floor of the Council for a vote. If it does go forward, I urge you to vote against it.

I've attached an explanation in letter format that expresses my point of view. I am happy if you share it with other Councilors.

Respectfully,

Stuart

Stuart Gedal

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